

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9191
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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PARIS FOR UNESCO
ROME FOR FODAG
VIENNA FOR USIAEA AND UNIDO
LONDON FOR IMCO
MONTREAL FOR ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, UN
SUBJECT: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL: OUTCOME

1. SUMMARY: GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIVE LEVEL MEETING
MAY 2-3 GAVE DIRECTION FOR FURTHER EFFORT IN THE INDICA-
TIVE TARGET FIGURE APPROACH TO RESTRAINING SPECIALIZED
AGENCY BUDGET GROWTH, AND REACHED A FAIRLY HIGH DEGREE
OF AGREEMENT ON POLICY TOWARD UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.
DECISION WAS TAKEN TO ENLARGE GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS
TO INCLUDE THE FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION ASPECTS OF THE
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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY CONDUCTED BY SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES. END SUMMARY.

2. GENEVA GROUP MET AT THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL IN GENEVA
MAY 2-3 ON THE THREE BROAD SUBJECT AREAS OF (A) PROGRESS
IN THE INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE APPROACH TO CAPPING-OFF
THE BUDGETARY GROWTH OF THE FOUR LARGEST SPECIALIZED

AGENCIES, (B) QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE FUNDING AND DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE UN SYSTEM, AND (C) THE NEED TO IMPROVE COORDINATION IN GENEVA GROUP CAPITALS IN ORDER TO PURSUE COMMON OBJECTIVES MORE EFFECTIVELY IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. AGREED CONCLUSIONS REACHED ON PURSUING THE INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE APPROACH AND ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARE CONTAINED IN SEPTELS.

3. PROGRESS MADE THUS FAR IN THE INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE APPROACH PRESENTED AN UNEVEN PICTURE AS BETWEEN THE FOUR AGENCIES (WHO, ILO, FAO AND UNESCO) AND CONSULTATIVE LEVEL DIRECTION FOR NEXT STEPS BY LOCAL GROUPS WAS TAILORED TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES BEING ENCOUNTERED IN EACH CASE. IN GENERAL, THE DUTCH DEMURRING, IT WAS FELT THE DIALOGUE ESTABLISHED WITH WHO SHOULD BE REGARDED AS THE MODEL SITUATION (A 2 PERCENT CEILING AND A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO THE REQUIREMENTS LEVIED BY THE STANDARD ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK FOR PROGRAM BUDGET ANALYSIS BY GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS) AND THAT A STRENUOUS EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE, IN PART BY HOLDING UP THE WHO MODEL, TO REPLICATE IT WITH RESPECT TO THE OTHER THREE MAJOR AGENCIES. DIRECTION TO ALL FOUR LOCAL GROUPS WAS GIVEN WITH THIS STRATEGY IN MIND.

4. CONSIDERATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE QUESTIONS AT THE MEETING CUT NEW GROUND. THE COMPREHENSIVE U.S. POLICY STATEMENT ON UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE HAD BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CIRCULATED TO GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS BEFOREHAND (AND SUMMARIZED IN A U.S. PAPER TABLED AT THE MEETING) AND THE EXCHANGE WAS CONDUCTED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE U.S. POLICY FORMULATIONS. IN THE OUTCOME THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF THE U.S. POSITION WERE INCORPORATED INTO A COMMON STATEMENT OF AGREED CONCLUSIONS.

5. THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED DESPITE INITIAL RESISTANCE BY SOME MEMBERS, MOST NOTABLY FRANCE AND FRG, TO ENLARGING GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS TO INCLUDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION. (THE BASIS FOR THEIR INITIAL AVERSION, IT TURNED OUT IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM, WAS LARGELY THE BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEM OF INVOLVING NEW PEOPLE IN THE GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS.) IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE REALIZATION PREVAILED THAT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITY PROVIDES THE PREPONDERANCE OF FINANCING AVAILABLE TO THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, AND THAT EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE THE MANAGEMENT OF REGULAR BUDGET RESOURCES ARE MEANINGLESS UNLESS THIS ACTIVITY IS TAKEN FULLY INTO ACCOUNT. THE GROUP TOOK A DECISION THAT THE CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE EXPANDED TO DO SO, AND THE MAY 2-3 MEETING ARRIVED THROUGH ITS SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION

AT A FAIRLY HIGH DEGREE OF COMMON POLICY DETERMINATION
ON UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

6. U.S. PROPOSAL FOR GENEVA GROUP COLLABORATION IN CON-
DUCTING FIELD STUDIES OF UN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
IMPLEMENTATION WAS REINFORCED BY PRESENTATION OF THE
REPORT OF THE U.S. PILOT STUDY IN KENYA. THIS WAS WELL
RECEIVED FOR ITS EXCELLENCE AND THE INSIGHTS IT PROVIDED,
AND THE U.S. INITIATIVE ON THIS ASPECT OF TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE CONSULTATION APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN RECEPTIVELY
LAUNCHED.

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7. LARGELY BECAUSE THE DOCUMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN STUDIED
CLOSELY, DISCUSSION WAS MUCH MORE DIFFUSE IN THE CON-
SIDERATION GIVEN TO FUNDAMENTAL POLICY QUESTIONS RAISED
BY THE JIU REPORT ON THE ROLE OF EXPERTS (JIU/REP/78/3)
WHICH ARGUES FOR HOST GOVERNMENT CONTROL OVER ALL ASPECTS
OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. EVEN HERE, HOWEVER,
THE VALUE OF EARLY GENEVA GROUP CONSULTATIONS WAS SEEN
IN THE STIMULUS GIVEN TO OTHERS TO FOCUS ON THE REPORT
AND THESE UNDERLYING QUESTIONS BEFORE THE JUNE MEETING
OF THE UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL.

8. WHILE PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION IN CAPITALS HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE THE THIRD BROAD SUBJECT AREA TO BE ADDRESSED, IN THE EVENT ONLY LIGHT CONSIDERATION WAS GIVEN TO THIS, REFLECTING THE INESCAPABLE REALITY THAT THESE PROBLEMS REMAIN, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH ON A NATIONAL BASIS. ALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THE WEAKENING EFFECT ON THE QUALITY OF COMMON GENEVA GROUP ATTITUDES AND HARMONIZED POSITIONS WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF GENEVA GROUP GOVERNMENTS APPEAR TO ADOPT POSITIONS AT VARIANCE WITH THESE. IT WAS LEFT FOR THIS REASON (IN THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS) THAT QTE THIS WAS A MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT AND THAT AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS SHOULD CONTINUE WITHIN THE GENEVA GROUP UNQTE. THE UK ILLUSTRATED THE USEFULNESS OF THE BROADER AIRING BEING GIVEN TO THE SUBJECT IN GENEVA GROUP EXCHANGES BY REPORTING THAT LONDON HAD BEEN PROMPTED BY EARLIER GENEVA GROUP EXCHANGES TO VIVIFY A COORDINATION COMMITTEE WHICH HAD BEEN DORMANT SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT IN 1960 AND TWO MEETINGS HAVE SINCE BEEN CONDUCTED.

9. AS A FURTHER TOOL FOR IMPROVING NATIONAL CAPABILITIES TO EVALUATE SPECIALIZED AGENCY PROGRAMS IN A HARMONIZED APPROACH THE CONSULTATIVE LEVEL ADOPTED THE REPORT OF EXPERTS, WHO HAD MET FEBRUARY 22-24, ON PROGRAM EVALUATION, ANALYSIS AND REVIEW.

10. THE MEETING ADOPTED ALSO THE "CONCLUSION" PARAGRAPH OF A NETHERLANDS PAPER CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING, ENTITLED "SUMMARY OF DECISIONS AND DOCUMENTS RELEVANT TO THE STUDY OF MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AND PROGRAM BUDGETS OF THE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES." (UNGA AND ECOSOC RESOLUTIONS ON COORDINATION, RESTRUCTURING AND MEDIUM-TERM PLANNING ARE SUMMARIZED.) COMMENT: WHILE NOT COMMITTING GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS TO NEW UNDERTAKINGS IN THE DIRECTION OF MEDIUM-TERM PLANS AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE APPROACH, THE ACTION MAY ENCUMBER FUTURE DISCUSSION OF INDICATIVE TARGET FIGURE QUESTIONS WITH THE MORE HYPOTHETICAL ALTERNATIVE (VIGOROUSLY PROMOTED BY THE NETHERLANDS) OF DEVELOPING MEDIUM-TERM PLANS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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11. AGREEMENT THE CO-CHAIRMEN SOUGHT TO DISCONTINUE THE TWO-YEAR OLD PRECEDENT OF HOLDING INTERIM CONSULTATIVE

LEVEL MEETINGS IN NEW YORK AT THE OPENING OF THE UNGA HAD TO BE QUALIFIED TO ACCOMMODATE THOSE MEMBERS WHO WISHED TO MAKE IT AN ESTABLISHED PRACTICE (NOTABLY, JAPAN, FRG, ITALY, BELGIUM AND SWEDEN). IT WAS LEFT THAT A MEETING WOULD BE HELD IF THERE WERE MATTERS THEN WARRANTING DISCUSSION. THE PROPONENTS OF A MEETING FEEL THERE ARE, AND A U.S. PAPER CIRCULATED ON THE INTERNATIONAL SALARIES PROBLEM AS WELL AS THE JIU REPORT ON LANGUAGES ARE CITED IN THE AGREED CONCLUSIONS AS MATTERS POSSIBLY WARRANTING DISCUSSION THEN. ULTIMATE DECISION, HOWEVER, WAS LEFT TO FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH AND BETWEEN THE CO-CHAIRMEN. VANDEN HEUVEL

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